

Police and Fire and Rescue Committee
4 February 2020

IRVINE, 4 February 2020 - At a Meeting of the Police and Fire and Rescue Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Glover, Jimmy Miller, Todd Ferguson, Davina McTiernan, Donald L. Reid and Angela Stephen.

In Attendance

A. Craig, Senior Manager (Legal Services) and A. Little, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Chief Superintendent M. Hargreaves, Chief Inspector B. Shaw (Police Scotland); Area Commander I. McMeekin and Group Commander G. Lamont (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Glover in the Chair.

Apologies

Ellen McMaster.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Members in terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2019 were confirmed and signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

3. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He congratulated Chief Superintendent Hargreaves on his new role in the planning of the policing of the United Nations Climate Change Summit (COP26) that will take place in Glasgow in November 2020. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Hargreaves for his contribution to the work of the Committee, wishing him well in his new role.

4. Chair and Vice Chair Verbal Updates

The Chair advised of a recent informative meeting he attended in December 2019, on Police Scotland's Contact Assessment Model. The model had been developed to enable the most appropriate and proportionate policing response at the first point of contact and the roll out of the model has been progressing well.

Noted.

5 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report

Submitted report by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) which provided an update on the progress against the North Ayrshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

A copy of the North Ayrshire Performance report from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2019 was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The report identified an 4.6% increase in activity levels across North Ayrshire compared to the previous year. Attendance at false alarms and special service incidents accounting for 54.21% and 13.42% respectively. Progress against the six agreed performance indicators noted that two indicators were above the three-year average, one indicator had seen a reduction in its three-year average of more than 10% and three others had reduced by less than 5%, 2% and 1% respectively.

The report also provided details of recent structural changes and the appointment to the Strategic Leadership Team of Ross Haggart to the role of Deputy Chief Officer, Paul Stewart to the role of Assistant Chief Officer and Stuart Stevens to the role of Assistant Chief Officer.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- Emergency medical response trials that involved fire appliances responding to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) incidents when they were closer than the nearest ambulance;
- The transformation programme underway to ensure the service can continue to protect communities from new and emerging risks;
- Changing demographics that require the service to undertake a broader role in preventative work;
- Negotiations that are currently taking place with firefighters on their remit and remuneration;
- Work with local communities, including schools and youth groups to prevent deliberate fire setting;
- The influx of visitors to coastal areas in the summer months that can result in an increase in deliberate fire setting;
- A report from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue on deliberate fire setting in the Stevenston area that will be provided to the next meeting; and
- The Council's process for the replacement of stolen wheelie bins that requires a Police crime number and different processes in place by other Scottish local authorities.

The Committee agreed to (a) receive reports from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue on deliberate fire setting in the Stevenston area; and (b) to otherwise note the report.

In terms of Standing Order 5.7, the Chair adjourned the meeting for a short recess at 3.05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3.10 p.m. with the same Members and officers present and in attendance.

6 . Police Scotland Performance Report

Submitted report by Police Scotland on performance in relation to the North Ayrshire Local Police Plan for the period from 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2019.

The report provided details of North Ayrshire's performance including a 2.7% rise in the total number of crimes.

Contextual information was provided in respect of domestic abuse incidents and reporting of hate crime. Serious assaults and robberies had reduced in comparison to last year and common assaults had reduced slightly from the position in September. There had been an increase in the number of detections for serious organised crime and sexual crimes, including non-recent crimes and on-line and mobile communications of a sexual nature. Road traffic casualties and housebreakings across North Ayrshire had reduced. Statistical information was provided on public confidence and user satisfaction (that included complaints about the Police). The UK threat level for terrorism and domestic terrorism had been lowered from severe to substantial.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- Operation Temperer, which is an established security plan by the Government to protect civilians at times of high terror threat and can involve the temporary deployment of the military working under Police command;
- Joint patrols that have been undertaken by Police Scotland with British Transport Police and also the Civil Nuclear Constabulary at Hunterston;
- The use of Tasers by Police Officers in Ayrshire and body-worn video equipment that will now have audio recording facilities;
- The Contact Assessment Model that will roll out the use of mobile devices to allow checks and statements to be undertaken remotely;
- Monitoring of road use and speeding on the A760 at the new crematorium;
- The relocation of Largs Police office to the Brooksby Centre in November 2019, the requirement for custody holding facilities at Millport and Arran and the overall good state of the remainder of the Police estate in North Ayrshire; and
- Efforts made by Community Police Officers to attend meetings of Community Councils.

Noted.

Councillor D. L. Reid left the meeting at this point.

7. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Consultation on Local Plans

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on a request from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for local authorities' views on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Local Plans. The consultation questions were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Senior Manager (Legal Services) to submit a response on behalf of the Committee after consultation with the Chair.

8. Scottish Police Authority Consultation on Joint Strategy for Policing 2020

Submitted report by the Senior Manager (Legal Services) on a request from the Scottish Police Authority for local authorities' views on its updated Joint Strategy for Policing 2020. The consultation questions were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee agreed to authorise the Senior Manager (Legal Services) to submit a response on behalf of the Committee after consultation with the Chair.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.